

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-06

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FM AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1528
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS HERMOSILLO 147

H PASS HONORABLE BARRY GOLDWATER, SENATE OFFICE BUILDING,
WASHINGTON, D.C. FROM MICHAEL J. HOGAN, CONSUL

DEPT ALSO FOR SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPRS (MUSGRERE, ALLAN D.)
SUBJ: MR. MUSGRERE'S STOLEN AIRCRAFT

REF: DEPT'S OM OF APRIL 6, 1978

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 16, 1978, WHICH THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERRED TO THIS POST FOR REPLY,
CONCERNING THE STOLEN AIRCRAFT OF MR. ALLAN D. MUSGRERE.

UNOFFICIAL, AND PARTLY UNCONFIRMED, INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO THIS OFFICE INDICATES THAT THE MEXICAN CUSTOMS POLICE
SEIZED THIS AIRCRAFT DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19-23, 1977,
AT A CLANDESTINE AIRSTRIP NEAR CABORCA, SONORA, MEXICO. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT THE PLANE HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO THAT LOCATION TO
BE STRIPPED, PRIMARILY BY REMOVING THE SEATS, FOR USE IN THE
MARIJUANA TRAFFIC, BUT WAS SEIZED BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS BEFORE
THIS WORK COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. ON LEARNING THAT IT WAS
BROUGHT TO THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE IN HERMOSILLO, AN
OFFICER FROM THIS CONSULATE GENERAL WENT TO INSPECT IT ON
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DECEMBER 29, 1977. HE WAS INFORMED THAT A PILOT OF THE MEXICAN
CUSTOMS POLICE HAD TAKEN IT OUT ON A "MISSION" AND WOULD RETURN
TO HERMOSILLO. WHEN THE CONSULAR OFFICER WENT TO THE AIRPORT
AGAIN ON JANUARY 7, 1978, HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE PLANE HAD
RETURNED ON DECEMBER 30, BUT HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO MEXICO CITY
ON JANUARY 3 OR 4. WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER REGARDING
THE AIRCRAFT. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLANE'S INSURERS HAVE BEEN

IN CONTACT WITH US, AND WE HAVE SHARED OUR INFORMATION WITH THEM.

THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THE DETENTION OF THIS AIRCRAFT IS THAT IT IS REGARDED AS CONTRABAND, HAVING BEEN BROUGHT INTO MEXICO WITHOUT A VALID ENTRY PERMIT, AND THE MEXICAN AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION IS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF CUSTOMS AT GUAYMAS, SONORA.

THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THIS OFFICE HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE AMERICAN EMBAASY AT MEXICO CIOY BY PRIORITY TELEGRAM. WE SHALL INFORM THEM OF THE INTEREST YOU HAVE EXPRESSED IN THE PLANE'S WHEREABOUTS AND IN THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS RETURN TO THE OWNERS. WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO CUMMUNICATE WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE AIRCRAFT, TO DATE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE THE PLANE.

AS YOU REQUESTED, WE ARE RETURNING YOUR INQUIRY AND TWO COPIES OF THIS TELEGRAM BY POUCH.
I REGRET THAT I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GIVE YOU A MORE FAVORABLE REPLY IN THIS MATTER. I TRUST THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOU IN YOUR REPLY TO YOUR CONSTITUENT.
SINCERELY YOURS, MICHAEL J. HOGAN, CONSUL.
HOGAN

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